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**COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND
LOCAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Proposals for the 2005 Europe Prize, Plaque of Honour,
Flag of Honour and European Diploma**

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

I. EUROPE PRIZE 2005

This year the Secretariat has examined 30 applications from towns which have already been awarded the Plaque of Honour and have now renewed their application in 2005 to compete for the Europe Prize.

Among the applications which seem best placed for the final selection are:

- **Germany** with the **MITTELFRANKEN** district and the towns of **AALEN, NÜRNBERG, VERDEN** and **WETZLAR**
- **Poland** with the town of **POZNAŃ**
- **Russia** with the town of **KALININGRAD**

A summary of the applications for the Europe Prize follows.

(Europe Prize – cont.)

1. Application of the district of MITTELFRAKEN (Germany, Bavaria)

Bezirk MITTELFRAKEN	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
(District)	1991	LIMOUSIN Region(F)	1995
(Bavaria)	1992	Voiv. of POMERANIA (PL)	2000
(pop. 1,7million)	1997		
	1998		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
<Flag of Honour in 1992>	2005		
<Plaque of Honour in 1998>			

The original twinning with the Département of Haute-Vienne in 1981 was extended to the Départements of Creuse (1989) and Corrèze (1994) to produce a twinning arrangement with the whole Limousin region, concluded officially in 1995.

As part of this regional twinning, 28 municipal twinings have been arranged.

- Grosshabersdorf	with	Aixe-sur-Vienne	since 1982
- Dietenhofen	with	Flavignac	since 1982
- Wassertrüdingen*	with	Bellac	since 1983
- Gunzenhausen*	with	Isle**	since 1984
- Oberreichenbach	with	Saint-Robert	since 1985
- Lauf	with	Brives	since 1985
- Weihezenzell	with	St-Laurent-s-Gorre	since 1985
- Scheinfeld	with	Beaulieu-s-Dordogne	since 1986
- Markt Eckental	with	Ambazac	since 1987
- Gutenstetten	with	St-Hilaire-les-Places	since 1987
- Pappenheim	with	Coussac-Bonneval	since 1987
- Zirndorf	with	Bourganeuf	since 1988
- Bad Windsheim	with	St-Yrieix-la-Perche	since 1988
- Burgthann	with	Chateauponsac	since 1989
- Heilsbronn	with	Objat	since 1989
- Schillingsfürst	with	Chamberet	since 1989
- Stein	with	Guéret	since 1990
- Burgoberbach	with	Bujaleuf	since 1991
- Fürth	with	Limoges	since 1992
- Diespeck	with	Eymoutiers	since 1994
- Neuendettelsau	with	Treignac	since 1995
- Markt Rosstal	with	Auzances	since 1997
- Hilpolstein	with	Cabtib Seilhac	since 2000
- Wolframs-Eschenbach	with	Donzenac	since 2000
- Markt Wendelstein	with	Saint Junien	since 2000
- Uffenheim	with	Egletons	since 2000
- Oberasbach	with	AGD (includes 5 municipalities)	Since 2000
- Markt Cadolzburg	with	Le Palais-sur-Vienne	since 2000

Since 1978, more than 800 groups have met, involving roughly 100 000 people from the two regions, with the exchanges often being subsidised by the district authority. Several twinings between towns are still in preparation as several municipalities in Limousin wish to be twinned with municipalities in the district of Mittelfranken.

Bezirk MITTELFRAANKEN (continued)

The new report submitted for the Plaque of Honour summarises the many school exchanges between the municipalities, traineeships in local companies, relations between the various associations, the development of tourism through the promotion campaign "Les Semaines du Limousin" in Nuremberg, and exchanges in the social field (twinning between two retirement homes, meetings between hospital staff and visiting a hospital complex).

Tri-regional contacts were forged with the region of Gdansk, Mittelfranken and Limousin, and an appeal for peace and cooperation was signed in 1993. Several meetings and concrete projects followed, and Mittelfranken and Limousin were both invited to attend the celebrations for the 1000th anniversary of the city of Gdansk in 1997. The three regions were also represented at the Nuremberg Fair, with a joint stand.

Among the activities and meetings initiated directly by the District in 1996, of particular interest were the celebration of the 15th anniversary of twinning with the Département of Haute-Vienne and the District of Mittelfranken, a cooperation agreement signed between two cycle touring associations, the Franco-German Twinning Congress attended by over 300 people and the very many cultural activities and meetings of young people, difficult to enumerate.

In 2000, the Limousin Region signed a bi-regional cooperation agreement with the Voivodship of Pomorski. Two months later, it was Bezirk Mittelfranken's turn to sign a cooperation agreement with the Voivodship of Pomerania, which succeeded the Voivodship of Gdansk after Poland's local government reform in 2000.

In February 2001, the three regions signed a mutual cooperation and twinning agreement. Shortly afterwards, a tri-partite twinning arrangement was concluded between the municipalities of Saint-Junien (Limousin), Wendelstein (Mittelfranken) and Zukowo (Pomerania).

Among the numerous forms of contact are:

- youth exchanges: inter-school partnerships, placements in local enterprises. Since 1994, the three regions have taken it in turn to provide accommodation for 30 young visitors every summer; since 1999, exchanges have been operating between vocational schools
- cultural exchanges: annual exchanges between artists, staging of exhibitions, musical performances
- economy and tourism: annual participation by the Limousin Region in Nuremberg Christmas Market, annual charter flights between Nuremberg and Limoges
- social exchanges: annual encounter between staff and residents of two old people's homes
- sport: participation by sportsmen and sportswomen from Mittelfranken in the "Tour de la Creuse" and the "Tour du Limousin"; large numbers of people take part in the relay race between Limousin and Mittelfranken and there is also a football tournament every other year.

In 2001, Limousin hosted a major ceremony to pay tribute to Mittelfranken fire fighters and electricians, who rushed to Limousin's aid after the terrible storm in December 1999.

Bezirk MITTELFRAANKEN (continued)

The opening of a "Limoges and Limousin Centre" in Fürth in 2003 marked a further step in the development of links between the regions of Limousin and Mittelfranken.

While school and youth exchanges were the main activities, emphasis was also placed on:

- exchanges of experience between training centres;
- meetings between twinning committee members;
- art exhibitions;
- cultural exchanges, with a number of concerts organised;
- official contacts to fix twinning policy for the future;
- sporting exchanges.

Highlights of 2004 – in addition to the many inter-school, inter-club and youth group encounters – were as follows:

a) in the Limousin-Mittelfranken regional twinning

- celebrations to mark 15 years of twinning between Creuse and Mittelfranken;
- celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Corrèze;
- an exhibition of work by a group of painters from Creuse in Häslabronn, Fürth and Ansbach;
- participation by the Limousin region in Fürth's civic festival;
- exchange projects with the Oradour Memorial;

b) in the Pomerania-Mittelfranken regional twinning

- a meeting in Gdansk between Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa, the Regional President of Pomerania and the Deputy President of the Mittelfranken district;
- signature of a new twinning agreement between Stein and Puck;
- a display of the culture and traditions of Pomerania in the Bad Windsheim outdoor museum;
- an event showcasing Mittelfranken in Slupsk and Kluki and an exhibition of regional costumes in Slupsk museum;
- a number of concerts by performers from Pomerania;
- seminars in Gdansk on the protection of water resources and the environment.

c) the trinational twinning

- continued cooperation in the form of exchanges of experience between psychiatric hospitals in Limoges, Gdansk and Ansbach.

2. Application of the town of AALEN (Germany, Baden-Wurtemberg)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
AALEN (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. approx. 40 000)	1989	SAINT LO (F)**	1978
	1992	TATABANYA (H)	1987
	1995	CHRISTCHURCH (GB)	1981
	1996	ANTAKYA (TR)	1995
	1997		
	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	<Flag of Honour in 1992>		
	<Plaque of Honour in 1998>		

Aalen has developed very regular contacts in many fields with its first three twin towns. It encourages school exchanges, vocational training courses, contacts between tradespeople (farmers, electricians, etc), elderly people, representatives of the different religions, municipal employees, young musicians, etc. The Aalen twinning committee co-ordinates all the exchanges. The "Reichsstädter Tage" (Imperial City Days), a traditional festival organised in Aalen, attracts several thousand people and representatives from all the twin towns are always invited. It was on this occasion that the Flag of Honour was officially awarded to Aalen in 1992.

Links between the twin towns are further consolidated through regional fairs in Aalen and Christchurch, folk festivals, sports events (the Friendship Games held every two years in each of the towns in turn, and which in Aalen brought together more than 500 sports men and women), and musical events (Euro-Treff).

1995 was marked by twinning with the Turkish town of Antakya. Through this arrangement with a town more than 3 500 km away, it wished to mark its attachment to a country 3 000 of whose nationals have settled in Aalen.

1997 was very rich in meetings of an associative nature with the four twin towns, and Aalen celebrated its 20th Anniversary of twinning with Saint Lô in 1998...The highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the presentation of the Plaque of Honour.

In 1999 and 2000 the pace of exchanges did not let up. There were exchanges with all the twin towns and traditional celebrations like the "Reichsstädter Tage" provide opportunities to bring together representatives of all five twin towns.

As always, there were numerous cultural, sports and educational exchanges as well as exchanges between associations, but the highlight of 2001 was the 20th anniversary of twinning with Christchurch, which was celebrated as part of the traditional "Reichsstädter Tage" festival. Over 100 people from the twin towns travelled to Aalen to mark the occasion.

(Europe Prize – continued)

AALEN (continued)

Once again, Aalen is submitting a full report on its twinning activities over the year (2002).

- Local festivals are always an occasion for bringing the twinning partners together: Aalen's "Imperial City Days" this year included celebrations to mark 15 years of twinning with Tatabanya, and the municipality also took part in Tatabanya's "Friendly Games" as well as Antakya's Liberation Day festival and celebrations in Christchurch to mark the 21st anniversary of that twinning.
- Aalen regularly hosts sporting events: this year they included an international soccer tournament, a visit by Saint-Lô's tennis club and a race through the town.
- Cultural activities included a visit by Tatabanya's school of music, with a concert in Aalen, participation by Aalen's choir in a major concert in Saint-Lô, and an exhibition of Turkish paintings.
- Inter-school exchanges and au pair and trainee placements continued.
- Various projects received financial support: these included a day nursery in Tatabanya, a humanitarian aid convoy to Tatabanya organised by the Order of Malta in Aalen, a visit by a group of children from the Chernobyl region and the purchase of equipment for an orphanage in Antakya.

The year 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the twinning with Saint-Lô and Aalen would have liked to crown the occasion by winning the Europe Prize. The anniversary celebrations, to which representatives of Aalen's other twin towns were also invited, were held as part of the traditional "Reichsstädter Tage" festival. The whole town was involved in the three days of festivities.

The 2003 programme also included traditional sporting and cultural activities, however, as well as school exchanges with the twinned towns. Aalen also signed a friendship agreement with the Hungarian municipality of GÖDRE.

Three major events in 2004 provided opportunities for all the twinning partners to get together:

- the 12th "Friendly Games", held in Aalen, which attracted 120 young people;
- celebrations in Saint-Lô to mark the 25th anniversary of that twinning;
- the traditional civic festival in September.

Once again the emphasis was on inter-school exchanges, particularly with Saint-Lô and Tatabanya, but also with Antakya which, despite the 3000 km separating the two towns, signed a partnership agreement with a senior high school in Aalen.

In 2005 Aalen will mark the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Antakya.

3. Application of the town of Nürnberg (Germany, Bavaria)

	Reports in:	Twinned with	Since:
NUREMBERG (Bavaria) (Pop. approx. 500 000)	1999	NICE (F)	1954
	2001	CRACOW (P)	1979
	2002	SKOPJE (FYRM)	1982
	2003	GLASGOW (GB)	1985
	2004	GERA (former GDR)	1988
	2005	PRAGUE (CZ)	1990
		KHARKIV (UA)**	1990
		ANTALYA (TR)*	1997
		KAVALA (GR)	1998

<Flag of Honour in 1999>

<Plaque of Honour in 2002>

Nuremberg has also concluded twinnings agreements with:

- San Carlos in Nicaragua in 1985
- Hadera in Israel in 1995
- Shenzhen in China in 1997
- Atlanta in the USA in 1998

It is difficult to summarise all the contacts for which for the year 1998 alone the enumeration filled over 30 pages and which in 1997 totalled over 400 projects, events and meetings.

Among the traditional exchanges that take place regularly we may cite: the many contacts between schools and universities, sports meetings, exchanges between artists and cultural activities (Jazz Festival in Nuremberg, direct broadcasting of concerts in Nuremberg and Prague thanks to the “Euro-Radio-Brücke”). Trips by delegations to the twin towns, meetings between senior citizens and handicapped people, which are also strongly encouraged between the towns.

Among the projects:

- in summer 1996 the opening of two twinning centres, “Nuremberg House” in Cracow and “Cracow House” in Nuremberg, used for meetings in the cultural, commercial and training fields (lectures, films, language courses, seminars, meetings of young people, economic debates, etc.).
- many school exchanges, especially with British and French schools. The University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the Higher Institute of Technology and the Music College of Nuremberg participate in joint exchange events and projects with the twin towns. Exchanges of trainees are organised and work particularly well with Glasgow.
- a model cooperation project between high schools in Nuremberg and Prague, subsidised by the European Community, has been extended to all Bavarian towns and the Czech towns close to the German frontier.
- with Skopje, a cooperation protocol has been signed between two kindergartens.
- in the context of the ECO-EAST project, financed by the European Community, a project involving several twin towns, has favoured the exchange of experiences and relations with Glasgow, Cracow, Prague, Kharkiv and Rostov.
- the excavation project on the “Aelia Flavia” site in Skopje was most successful
- the Cracow project on the “tourist information system” was initiated by Nuremberg and aims to set up an efficient tourism infrastructure in both Cracow and Nuremberg.

NUREMBERG (continued)

- many meetings between local government officers to exchange their experiences and take advantage of training programmes.
- the Nuremberg “Consumenta 98” Fair, in which all the twin towns participated, with information stands, lectures, cultural events, etc.
- “The Market of the twin towns”, held in parallel with the famous “Christmas Market” in Nuremberg.
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry cooperates with many chambers of commerce in different European countries, and Nuremberg’s belonging to the EUROCITIES network of towns.
- The annual visit organised by the town of former Jewish inhabitants of Nuremberg.

Among the European events:

- the annual European Youth Week
- international football and handball competitions
- Twin towns Festival (with cultural and culinary contributions from each twin town)
- Twin towns Market
- International Jazz Festival

In order to facilitate and maintain international contacts, Nuremberg has created an International Relations Bureau which reports direct to the Mayor and is also responsible for all exchanges with the twin towns.

In 2000 Nuremberg again organised a total of 500 encounters, which were initiated and often financed by the International Relations Office. One of the main projects was indubitably the award of a “Hermann-Kesten” grant to twelve journalists and writers from the 12 twin towns, who were invited to live and work for a month in Nuremberg. The other important event was the Conference of Twin Towns, which was held in Nuremberg Town Hall and dealt with the possible means of intensifying cooperation among the twin towns.

On the cultural front, a group of 10 writers from Kharkiv visited the city, there was an exchange of art students, the youth orchestra visited Kavala for a series of concerts, numerous cultural events were organised by the “Nuremberg House” in Cracow, concerts were broadcast live in Cracow and Nuremberg, the Prague jazz group “Jazz No Problem” performed at the opening of the “Meistersinger” festival, and a series of art exhibitions were co-organised with Skopje.

In the economic field the main events were the “Nuremberg Days” in Kharkiv and Kavala, publicising Nuremberg’s economic and tourist potential in these regions. Nuremberg is also proud to have been able to open an office for relations with Shenzhen in order to develop its contacts with China.

In connection with social affairs, youth and sports, the exchanges organised with Antalya concentrated on young people. Nuremberg also took in three trainees from Kharkiv for a training programme in a clinic, and 25 children paid a two-week visit to Nuremberg. There are many school contacts with Cracow, and a whole series of study visits and seminars have been organised in the latter city. With Nice the emphasis has been on sports encounters: football match and cycle ride from Nuremberg to Nice. The “Nuremberg - Prague” Friendly Association, which cooperates closely with the Prague Senior Citizens Association, has organised a great

NUREMBERG (continued)

many concerts and trips by groups of inhabitants. With Skopje the work has concentrated on the medical field, with a plan to improve psychiatric care and medical equipment.

Group travel by inhabitants is still very popular. A large delegation visited Kharkiv for the 10th twinning anniversary, when the “Kharkiv Days” were held. A similar trip was organised for the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Prague.

Among the highlights of Nuremberg’s twinning activities in 2001 were:

- EU funding for the twinning scheme with the Ukrainian town of Kharkiv in the field of waste management
- the award, for the second year in a row, of a “Hermann-Kesten” grant for journalists and writers from the twin towns
- the “China Days” festival held in the summer to promote Shenzhen liaison office
- the celebration in Nuremberg and Krakow of the 5th anniversary of the foundation of the “Houses of Friendship”, with street festivals and exhibitions
- a “Venetian Market”.

In total, over 500 events helped to foster closer ties between the twin towns. The Bureau of International Relations, whose role has been recognised and will shortly be bolstered by the setting up of “Nuremberg International House”, organised numerous art and photography exhibitions, lectures and trips for local residents to the twin towns.

Nuremberg was the proud winner of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education in 2001.

The activity reports for 2002 and 2003 once again record many exchanges with the twinned towns, but the office coordinating these activities (with a staff of about 10) is under threat of reorganisation which is very likely to entail job cuts. This would be unfortunate as the report for 2003 indicates the real efforts that Nuremberg is making to sustain its twinning contacts.

- With ANTALYA the emphasis has been on the arts, and contacts have been stepped up in connection with art exhibitions, film launches and screenings as well as youth exchanges. Many groups of young people have had the chance to come and learn more about the cultural life of their twinned town. Nuremberg also hosted ten law students from Antalya who were studying the German legal system.
- With KHARKIV, cultural contacts received a boost when Kiev organised a series of "German Cultural Days in Ukraine", which took place in several Ukrainian towns between October and December. In Kharkiv the days were organised in late October in conjunction with the "Nuremberg Cultural Days". Events included a concert, the launch of an exhibition of posters by a Nuremberg artist, a workshop for Ukrainian journalists, and a seminar and literary evening. Contacts between the music schools were developed and culminated in a concert by youth choirs from Kharkiv shortly before Christmas. Exchanges of experience include regular police visits between the two towns. Nuremberg also hosts summer holidays for young people with disabilities and financially supports Kharkiv's psychiatric hospital.
- The twinning with GERRA was 15 years old this year and, while contacts have been less intense since the reunification of Germany, links have been sustained between fire fighters and schools, two of which recently received an award from the Bavarian Ministry of Culture for their exemplary level of cooperation.

NUREMBERG (continued)

- Activities with GLASGOW mainly take the form of youth and school exchanges, although interest in learning German has declined sharply in the UK. Nuremberg was involved in a Youth Camp, organised by Glasgow with EU funding, which focused on the themes of combating drug abuse and racism. For the first time, Nuremberg hosted a group of Glasgow families including children with disabilities, as part of a project entitled "Building Bridges".
- Cooperation with KAVALA (GR) was focused in the areas of culture, tourism and residents' exchanges.
- With CRACOW, and under the aegis of the "Cracow House", Nuremberg organised numerous exhibitions by Polish artists, as well as concerts, film screenings, a series of lectures on Poland's accession to the EU and a visit to Cracow by Nuremberg residents.
In Cracow the "Nuremberg House" is regarded as one of the city's most fashionable cultural venues: activities there include screenings of German films and literary evenings. Youth exchanges form the core of this twinning and two new inter-school twinning agreements were concluded in 2003.
- Activities with NICE included continuing contact between music schools and the conservatory, and around 100 Nuremberg students gave a concert as part of the Festival of Sacred Music in Nice. Other significant events in 2003 were a visit by Nuremberg residents to Nice and involvement in a sporting event for people with disabilities. Several meetings were also held between municipal officials from the two towns to prepare for the 50th anniversary of the twinning in 2004.
- With PRAGUE the emphasis was on exchanges between young people, school students and municipal staff.

At the end of the year Nuremberg staged the now traditional "Twinned Towns Market" (for the 19th time). Thirteen twinned towns took part as well as the Region of Limousin which is twinned with the District of Mittelfranken. Profits from the sale of traditional local produce were used to fund projects in Kharkiv, San Carlos and Skopje.

2004 was a year of anniversary celebrations, marking 50 years of the twinings with Nice and Venice and 25 years of the link with Cracow.

- With Antalya, cultural contacts were stepped up: art exhibitions were held in both cities, Antalya staged a "Nuremberg Film Festival" and invited a Nuremberg writer to its Prose Festival for the first time. A German architect took part in an architectural symposium in Antalya and the cooperation agreement between the universities of Antalya and Nuremberg was extended.
- With Kharkiv there are plans for closer business contacts, and an official delegation from Nuremberg attended the 350th anniversary celebrations of the Ukrainian town, during which Kharkiv was presented with the Council of Europe's Flag of Honour. An official delegation from Kharkiv took part in the fourth European Human Rights Conference and at the same time a group of four Ukrainian doctors carried out a fact-finding visit on the German medical system.

NUREMBERG (continued)

- With Glasgow, Nuremberg has one of its busiest twinings and 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the link. Large numbers of visitors come to Nuremberg every January for three major events that are organised in cooperation with Glasgow: the Burns Supper, a Scottish Ceilidh Night and a "Culinary Tour of the Highlands". In 2004 a declaration of intent was signed with a view to stepping up cooperation between the museums in the two cities; the now traditional exchanges took place between schools (and, indeed, kindergartens) and a decision was taken to re-launch a trainee exchange scheme at university level. A series of events will be held in 2005 to mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning.
- With Kavala, the two main activities of the year were Nuremberg's participation in the "Ethnic Cosmopolis" festival there and the staging of a photo exhibition about Kavala in Nuremberg.
- With Cracow, the 25th anniversary of the twinning was celebrated lavishly in both cities. In June it was Cracow's turn and a 120-strong delegation travelled there from Nuremberg. A wide-ranging exhibition of work by the group of artists known as "Der Kreis", a formal sitting of the municipal council, a street festival and a religious service in St Mary's Church were the major events. A month later, Cracow was showcased in Nuremberg through an exhibition of photographs of the city, a concert and a civic festival in the "Cracow House" there.
- With Nice, Nuremberg has also just recently celebrated a twinning anniversary (50 years in this case). In 2003 the German city was represented in Nice's "Christmas Village", 30 Nuremberg residents attended the carnival in Nice, 40 French students took part in Nuremberg's Festival of Sacred Music, and Molière's *Le Malade Imaginaire* was staged there, to great success. A number of trainees from Nice also carried out work placements in Nuremberg. The major celebratory events, however, were a performance by the Ensemble Baroque de Nice in Nuremberg, the second International Twinned Towns Festival and an exhibition in Nice of Albrecht Dürer's engravings.

4. Application of the town of VERDEN (Germany, Lower-Saxony)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
VERDEN/Aller (Lower Saxony) (Pop. 25 000)	1982	SAUMUR (F)**	1967
	1983	WARWICK (GB)**	1990
	1987	HAVELBERG (former GDR)	1990
	1988 to 1996	ZIELONA GORA (PL)	1993
	1997	GOROWO ILAWECKIE (PL)	1996
	1998	BAGRATIONOWSK (RU)	1996
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2005		

<Flag of Honour in 1985>

<Plaque of Honour in 1993>

While the initial contacts between Saumur and Verden were aimed at improving Franco-German relations, the prime motivation was their mutual interest in horses, each town rating as the equestrian capital of its country.

School exchanges between Saumur and Verden have of course always been a major feature of relations between the towns, and have benefited several thousand pupils, but at a very early stage sports exchanges also developed, with athletes from the two towns meeting annually for competitions. In the cultural field, music has always been Verden's emissary and the twinning has produced several choirs. Furthermore, various professions including police officers, fire fighters, railway staff, and Red Cross workers have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet their foreign counterparts. Since 1990 each of the two municipalities makes five jobs available to young people from the other town for a period of one month. The annual exchange of municipal officials of the two towns also very successful.

To strengthen their links, in 1987, the two towns produced a twin town passport which gives citizens from each town free entry to several of the towns' facilities. A twinning committee set up in 1992 facilitates contacts, organises language lessons and study visits. Every week Saumur and Verden exchange their weekly newspapers.

Among the most significant events of the twinning are the relay race run in 1985 between the two towns, Verden's thousandth anniversary celebrations the same year, to which many Saumur people were invited, the ceremonies for the presentation of the Flag of Honour to Verden in 1985 and to Saumur in 1987, and the lavishly celebrated 25th anniversary of the twinning in 1992.

In 1976 Saumur undertook to twin with the English town of Warwick. In 1990 Verden followed suit and completed the triangle by signing the twinning agreement with Warwick. A twinning committee was immediately set up and the first school exchanges and trainee placements followed.

In September 1991 Saumur for its part signed a friendship agreement with Havelberg, Verden's German sister town, and contacts quickly grew up between residents, associations, etc.

After several years of close contacts, mainly through youth exchanges, sports meetings and cultural events, Verden has just been twinned with the Polish town of Gorowo Ilaweckie and the Russian town of Bagrationowsk (1996) in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. In fact, not only the municipality of Verden but also the Verden District and the "Kreiskommune" of.

VERDEN (continued)

Preussisch Eylau, which has its administrative centre in Verden, are twinned with these two towns.

The official visits which strengthen the links with the twin towns are a regular feature, with an annual meeting of representatives of Saumur, Warwick and Havelberg.

In 1997, Verden celebrated the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Saumur and it also attended the ceremony of the 20th anniversary of twinning between Warwick and Saumur and the signature of a friendship pact between Warwick and Havelberg, whose first contacts had been initiated by Verden.

In the context of the seminars organised in turn by each twin town, it was in Warwick that the representatives of the four twinning committees met in 1997 to discuss joint projects. The provision of municipal summer jobs in Saumur and Verden again permitted a number of young people to have the benefit of practical training in the municipal services, but it is above all school exchanges that led to the greatest number of contacts between all the towns.

In 1998 Verden sent several of its official representatives to Gorowo and Bagrationowsk for the Town Festival and the meeting of twin towns, the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of twinning with Saumur held in Saumur and the festivities for the 1050th anniversary of the foundation of the twin town of Havelberg.

Farming seminars were organised with Gorowo, general seminars were held with representatives of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, and the town of Verden took part in the Twin Towns Forum in Zielona Gora.

The most operational projects include the municipal summer jobs provided alternately by Saumur and Verden and exchanges of municipal employees between the two towns.

Under the Comenius project, two youth workers from each of Saumur, Warwick and Verden met up to exchange experience.

18 school exchanges were held and several practical courses were provided in Verden and Saumur.

The youth encounters included the football tournament in Verden involving teams from Havelberg, Zielona Gora and Gorowo. However, there were also many other encounters such as delegation visits to Saumur, art exhibitions and concerts by Verden choirs and singers in Saumur, etc.

The list of exchanges in 1999 bears witness to the vitality of the twinings. As always, numerous meetings of official delegations, especially with the two Polish twin towns, seminars some of which involved all the twin towns, exchanges of municipal officials between Saumur and Verden, numerous school exchanges, etc were all on the programme.

In 2000 the exchange programme was equally impressive. The numerous encounters included the simultaneous celebration of the 10th anniversaries of the twinings with Havelberg and Warwick, for which all the twin towns sent delegations to Verden.

VERDEN (continued)

As in previous years, Verden also invited officials from the town of Saumur. Its other activities include accommodating schoolchildren, including a group of 120 from Saumur, in families, provided work experience in local firms, organised an encounter with Polish and Russian young people, organised an exhibition of artists from Havelberg, Saumur, Zielona Gora and Bagrationowsk and organised 11 convoys supplying equipment to Zielona Gora.

Judging by the report on activities conducted in 2001, Verden appears to have maintained a steady flow of school exchanges, youth exchanges and exchanges between local government officials, doctors, etc. as well as humanitarian convoys (12 in total) to the Polish town of Zielona Gora.

Verden's file on twinning activities in 2002 is well presented, as always, and includes many press cuttings, highlighting:

- numerous delegation visits – by representatives of the four twinned towns to an environmental seminar in Warwick; to Gorowo's municipal festival; to sign a cooperation agreement with the new district of Bartoszyce, of which Gorowo town is a part; and to attend a forum in Zielona Gora;
- organisation of (or involvement in) numerous seminars, including one in Verden for police officers and fire fighters from Gorowo and Bartoszyce;
- traditional inter-school exchanges, notably with Saumur, Zielona Gora and Lorca (E);
- a scheme to place trainees with companies in Verden;
- youth encounters, including one held in Verden in July which involved 30 young people from Gorowo and Bagrationowsk.
- many international events, including an exhibition by painters from Zielona Gora and Saumur; contacts between the Saumur and Verden riding schools; a visit by 70 young Poles to take part in sports events in Verden; organisation of the world dressage championships in August; a performance by a choir from Saumur as part of Verden's series of summer concerts; and the appearance of a jazz group from Verden at Zielona Gora's traditional wine festival; celebrations to mark 10 years of twinning with Saumur; and the ceremony for the award of the Europe Prize in recognition of a village restoration scheme organised by Verden..

Verden continues to provide financial support for students of German in Zielona Gora. Since 1995 its efforts have enabled 32 students to spend a semester abroad. In February the 150th aid convoy reached Zielona Gora bringing supplies to the poorest sections of the population. Verden also mounted a major campaign, which raised € 10 000, to help its twinned town of Havelberg with recovery operations after flooding. Exchanges of information between Verden and Saumur through the local newspapers are ongoing and the two towns continue to offer one another's residents a "friendship passport" entitling them to reductions at municipal facilities.

VERDEN (continued)

The report for 2004 highlights various twinning activities.

- a) Visits by official delegations: A delegation from Verden attended Gorowo's 13th municipal festival in the company of representatives from the police and fire service, both of which work closely with their Polish counterparts. A Russian delegation from Bagrationowsk was also involved in the meetings. Verden participated in Zielona Gora's annual wine festival, and delegations from Gorowo and Bagrationowsk attended the traditional Preussisch-Eylau encounter.
- b) Seminars, lectures and meetings on special themes: The German-Polish Friendship Society organised a number of lectures on the theme of Poland's accession to the European Union. An exhibition of photographs by eight amateur photographers from Verden was staged in Saumur. Evening classes in German and basic skills were provided for foreign women with a view to helping them find work.
- c) Inter-school exchanges: Exchange programmes for schools have been developed with all the twinning partners, and a number of students were enabled to spend an entire school year in Verden, which also hosted several trainees in local companies.
- d) Youth encounters: Verden welcomed handball players from Gorowo and a group of young people from Belarus, and also hosted a large gathering of young Poles, Russians and Germans.
- e) Other meetings: Verden has a well regarded riding school which is attended each year by riders from all over Europe and as far afield as Japan, Canada and South Africa. A delegation from Verden attended the opening of Zielona Gora's concert hall, and Verden's wind band took part in a festival in Saumur. A 40-strong delegation travelled to Havelberg to celebrate German Reunification Day. Groups of walkers from Verden and Saumur came together for a walk across the Vosges. A delegation including farmers and police officers from Gorowo and the surrounding district of Bartoszyce visited the Verden district.

As happens every year, aid convoys were sent to Zielona Gora and the Voivodship of Lubusk. Since 1989, 175 such convoys have contributed to social provision in the twinned region. Two Verden residents also organise convoys to Bulgaria: in 2004 they despatched their 10th such mission.

5. Application of the town of WETZLAR (Germany, Hessen)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
WETZLAR (Hesse) (Pop. 50 000)	1965	BERLIN-NEUKÖLLN (D)****	1959
	1975	AVIGNON (F)****	1960
	1986 to 1999	COLCHESTER (GB)	1969
	2000	SCHLADMING (A)***	1974
	2001	REITH/Kitzbühel (A)	1976
	2002	SIENA (I)	1987
	2003	ILLMENAU (former GDR)	1990
	2004		
	2005		

<Flag of Honour in 1964>

<Plaque of Honour in 1990>

This picturesque town in Hesse, once an imperial city and home to Goethe, underwent major industrial development at the end of the last century. It now has a population of some 50 000.

Although the reports for 1986 and 1987 were still rather disappointing for a town with so many twinning arrangements, more recent reports indicate a great variety of exchanges with all its twin towns involving all layers of society. These exchanges are sustained and developed by the different associations based in Wetzlar, which cover each country concerned (e.g. Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft Wetzlar). They act in the stead of the twinning committee, directly fostering cultural, economic and political exchanges between Wetzlar and its twin towns. To promote the language and culture of each twin town, these associations hold lectures, debates, concerts, exhibitions and trips to the twin town concerned.

School twinning arrangements have also been concluded between Wetzlar and certain twin towns, and also in Hungary, the USA and Russia.

In addition to school exchanges, there are also guest delegations at local festivals (carnival and wine festival in Wetzlar), music events, some featuring orchestras from several twin towns, sports events and above all the participation of sizeable delegations from each twin town in twinning anniversaries, which strengthen bonds of friendship. To encourage exchanges, the municipality of Wetzlar subsidises trips to the various twin towns.

Wetzlar has also developed several twinings with the Third World:

- Dori (Burkina Faso) in 1975, with the construction of a school and the equipment of a hospital
- Cardenas in Nicaragua
- Sumatra, with financial support for a hospital
- Burkina Faso with the Tikato project.

1995 provided an occasion to celebrate the 35th anniversary of twinning between Wetzlar and Avignon in both towns, and the 5th anniversary of twinning with Illmenau was also celebrated in Illmenau.

School exchanges were once again on the programme for Wetzlar's exchanges with its twin towns in 1996. But this year was also an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Garbenheim, at present attached to Wetzlar, and the Austrian town of Reith. More than 400 people celebrated this event in October. Other international meetings were held in 1996: the celebration of 5 May, a meeting of young people from all of Wetzlar's twin towns to take part in the study days for young people devoted this year to the environment, and the Europe Festival organised every year by the Wetzlar Cultural Institute.

WETZLAR (continued)

In 1997, the accent was on celebrating the 10th anniversary of twinning with Sienna. Delegations from all the twin towns and the Cultural Office of Wetzlar and the Europa Union took part in the associated events, with art exhibitions, concerts etc. Ceremonies were also held in Sienna in November 1997 and over 450 Wetzlar people were present.

Among the highlights of the meetings were:

- the celebration of Europe Day, which coincided with the Wetzlar-Sienna twinning ceremonies;
 - the traditional “Ox Festival” in Wetzlar in July and the participation of Wetzlar in Avignon’s Spring Fair;
 - the traditional annual meeting of young people from all the twin towns in Wetzlar
- and, of course, the many school exchanges which favour the establishment of close links between families.

In 1998 Wetzlar took part in many events organised by its twin towns, primarily Colchester, Illmenau and Avignon, and received several school and sports groups.

The more salient exchanges in the very active 1999 programme were:

- celebration of the 40th anniversary of twinning with Berlin-Neukölln
- inauguration of an exhibition in Wetzlar by artists from Colchester, on the occasion of the 30th twinning anniversary
- three-day celebration of three twinning anniversaries (40 years with Berlin-Neukölln, 30 years with Colchester and 25 years with Schladming)
- organisation of a 10-day international youth workshop to which young people from all the twin towns were invited. Organisation and accommodation were laid on by the town of Wetzlar
- 500 Wetzlar people went to Schladming on the occasion of the 25th twinning anniversary
- 150 Wetzlar people went to Colchester for the 30th twinning anniversary.

As in previous years, exchanges in 2000 mainly concerned the towns of Avignon and Colchester. All strata of the populations were involved, and the twinning anniversaries (40 years with Avignon and 10 with Illmenau) again attracted large delegations, with, for instance, 100 inhabitants of Wetzlar travelling to Avignon.

The twinning committees meet once a year to prepare the major forthcoming events; a large co-ordinating meeting was held in Avignon to prepare the 40th twinning anniversary and the conference attended by senior citizens from all the twin towns on the theme of “the senior citizens’ contribution to twinning activities”.

Twinning activities were less numerous in 2001 than in previous years and were centred mainly on young people. A scheme entitled “Young Ambassadors” is currently being considered. The idea is to send young people from Wetzlar to the seven twin towns over the next two to three years, so that they can find out more about the various organisations and institutions concerned with youth.

WETZLAR (continued)

The 5 May festival was also devoted to young people and Wetzlar celebrated the 25th anniversary of its twinning with Reith in style.

In 2002 the emphasis was on visits by Wetzlar delegations to the twinned towns:

- to Avignon for a spring fair involving all the twinning partners, a concert given by the choirs of Nauborn, Avignon and Wetzlar, the Whitsun festival and the 30th anniversary of the Colchester-Avignon twinning;
- to Colchester for a European youth games involving all the twinned towns and for events to mark the 30th anniversary of the Colchester-Avignon twinning;
- to Kitzbühel for the traditional ski trip and to take part in a music festival and musical evening;
- to Siena to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Wetzlar-Siena twinning.

For its part, Wetzlar hosted an Avignon delegation at its carnival; took part in a conference on Anglo-German twinning, held in Brussels; staged an exhibition of photographs of its twinned town of Siena; organised celebrations for the 15th anniversary of the link with Siena; and invited all its twinning partners to a "summer wine night".

In 2003 Wetzlar again organised several large-scale encounters with its twin towns:

- a seminar and exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Franco-German Treaty;
- Wetzlar's traditional "Culture Days", which were part of a major summer festival, attended by delegations from all the twinned towns;
- the agricultural fair.

Wetzlar also hosted a large group of elderly people from Avignon for a three-day programme, financed the visit of a choir to Colchester and organised an exhibition of artists from Illmenau and Wetzlar.

Initial contacts were made with the Czech town of Pisek as Wetzlar is keen to twin with a municipality in Eastern Europe.

In 2004 Wetzlar celebrated three twinning anniversaries. To mark 30 years of its link with Schladming it hosted a major evening event for several hundred people. The other two anniversaries were celebrated as part of the town's European Civic Festival which lasted for three days and to which representatives of all the twinning partners were invited. Events included a joint conference, youth workshops, sports and many open-air activities. As in previous years, the twinning associations got together for the traditional cultural festival, and representatives of Avignon, Colchester and Siena attended Wetzlar's summer festival. A fact-finding visit was made to the Czech municipality of Pisek to develop contacts there.

6. Application of the town of POZNAN (Poland)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
POZNAŃ (Woj. Wielkopolskie) (pop. 600,000)	2000	HANOVER (D)*	1979
	2001	RENNES (F)** *	1998
	2002	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (UK)**	1994
	2005	ASSEN (NL)	1992
		JYVÄSKYLÄ (FIN)	1979
		POZUELO DE ALARCON (E)***	1993
		CHARKOV (UA)**	1998

<Flag of the Honour in 2000>

<Plaque of Honour in 2002>

Poznań was a founding member of the Association of Polish Towns, which comprises some 250 municipalities and is based in Poznań. It takes part in the work of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

Poznań has signed partnership agreements with several municipalities and maintains less formal contact with other associate towns.

It also cooperates with Shenzhen (China), Toledo (USA) and Nablus (Palestine).

Activities with its other partner municipalities are outlined below.

HANOVER (D)

The partnership contract was signed in 1979, and is renewed annually. It covers the following sectors: culture, sport, communications and transport, environment, school exchanges and public health. Examples of successful cooperation in recent years have included:

- a new air service between the two towns launched in 1998
- a tour of Hanover and the surrounding region by the Poznań Symphony Orchestra
- participation by each town in the other's major conferences and exhibitions; for instance, the exhibition organised by Hanover in 1995 on "European Nature Protection Year" and the Conference on traffic control information systems for public transport, in partnership with the two universities of Hanover and Poznań.

In 1999 both towns organised ceremonies for the 20th anniversary of their twinning.

RENNES (F)

Cooperation between the two towns developed thanks to the installation of the "Maison de Bretagne" (Brittany Centre) in Poznań in 1993. Poznań organises annual "Brittany Days", a Celtic Music Festival and French Culture Days. Direct cooperation has also grown up between schools, universities and chambers of commerce in both towns. Particularly close contacts were established eight years ago between the Villejean district in Rennes and the "Pod Lipami" cultural centre in Poznań.

The University of Rennes runs regular French courses for municipal employees and teachers from the Wielkopolskie region, the Franco-Polish Business Centre facilitates trade contacts between enterprises, and in 1997 artistic events involving Polish artists were held as part of the Breton Polish Festival, in almost 70 towns in the Ille-et-Vilaine department.

POZNAN (continued)

A twinning agreement was signed in 1998 following these extremely rewarding exchanges, which have been described as one example of very successful cooperation between the two countries involved. Both towns spent several months of 1999 preparing "Children's Rights Week", which led to a Declaration on intensification of contacts between municipal libraries, social services specialising in child care, and children attending two schools.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (UK)

The twinning agreement concluded in 1991 between Poznań Province and Nottinghamshire County Council was signed in 1994 by the town of Poznań. Cooperation covers the following activities: organising contacts between schools and training centres, promoting tourism, developing economic contacts, assisting persons with disabilities, improving transport, and maintaining contacts between municipal officials.

Cultural links were highlighted during "Poznań Province Week in Nottinghamshire" (1994 and 1997) and "Nottinghamshire Week in Poznań Province" (1992 and 1995).

Exchanges also took place between teachers and health department officials from both towns in 1999.

ASSEN (NL)

In 1992 the two towns signed a Declaration of Intent to cooperate in the fields of education, science, sports, public health, culture and business. Training programmes have been run to help Poznań restructure its economic system, school exchanges have developed, and both regions' chambers of commerce are intensifying their cooperation. There are also many official visits, eg for art exhibitions and for the inauguration of the new town hall in Assen.

JYVÄSKYLÄ (Fin)

In 1979 a cooperation agreement was signed covering the fields of construction, urban development and architecture, culture, sport, tourism and education. After a break of several years, contacts were renewed in 1996, and it was agreed that they should concentrate on schools and the economic sector. In 1999 representatives of Poznań attended the 4th Conference of Polish and Finnish Towns.

POZUELO DE ALARCON (E)

The twinning agreement was concluded in 1993, and mainly concerns culture, education and schools. The Poznań Cathedral Choir has been invited to several cultural events in Pozuelo.

(Europe Prize – cont.)

POZNAN (continued)

KHARKIV (Ukraine)

The twinning agreement was signed in 1998, and Kharkiv has put forward proposals for future cooperation in 2000. This cooperation should involve both towns' universities, concentrating on the cultural field with exchanges of art exhibitions between museums and theatrical encounters.

Cooperation agreements have also been signed with NABLUS (Palestine), SHENZHEN (China) and TOLEDO (USA).

Many organisations, voluntary associations and institutes, etc, have developed contacts with foreign countries:

- the many honorary consulates in Poznań
- the Poznań Section of the Association of Polish Choirs and Orchestras
- the Poznań Economic Research Institute, which has been working on a new Socrates-Erasmus programme since 1999
- the Poznań Academy of Music
- the Adama Mickiewicz University, which is cooperating with the Europa Viadrina University in Frankfurt
- the Poznań Chamber of Craft Trades, which is cooperating with its opposite numbers in Kassel, Chemnitz and Rennes
- the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- etc.

The most intensive contacts involve young people:

- through schools, which cooperate with their opposite numbers in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, France and the United Kingdom, etc;
- through the Wielkopolskie Centre for European youth cooperation based in Poznań, which mainly runs exchanges between scout groups. In 1995, for instance, more than 500 young people from Poznań visited the United Kingdom, 50 British youngsters visited Poznań and almost 5000 young people from the region took part in international youth exchanges.

Poznań organises a multitude of conferences and sports and cultural events every year. Furthermore, it hosted the 7th European Cultural Heritage Days in September 1999, and has also organised German Culture Days and British Days.

A wide variety of events were held for Europe Day in 1999, including a European race in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

The most notable European event organised in 2000 was undeniably the “Poznań-Europe 2000” meeting of twin towns, which took place as part of the annual St John’s Day Fair. Over 120 persons from the six twin towns took part. It was also on this occasion that Poznań received the Council of Europe Flag of Honour. This meeting enabled the twin towns to exchange experiences and ideas, and above all to become better acquainted. It was also highly popular with the local inhabitants, who had been invited to meet the guests from the twin towns and attend the performances given by the various towns on Poznań's main square. The event was extensively covered by the local press.

POZNAN' (continued)

Some examples of other actions pursuing cooperation with the twin towns are:

- with Hanover, contacts concentrating on Expo' 2000: visit by the Mayor of Poznań, celebration of Poland Day during the exposition;
- with Rennes; the 2000 activities mainly comprised school exchanges, encounters between chamber of commerce, attendance by 14 head teachers from Poznań in training programmes organised by Rennes, sustained contact between municipal librarians, traineeships, and exchanges of experience among municipal officials in the environmental field;
- With Nottinghamshire, cooperation was cultural in nature (visit by 60 English musicians) and comprised several training programmes and visits to social institutions;
- with Jyväskylä economic contacts were made (timber industries) with a view to investments in Poznań, which also received a delegation from Jyväskylä with a view to future cooperation under the European integration process;
- with Pozuelo de Alarcon (E) the main exchanges are between schools of music and choirs;
- with Charkhov (Ukraine), participation by an official delegation from Poznań in the ceremonies for the 55th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; cooperation project between the universities, with placement of students for practical training courses.

The following stand out from the innumerable encounters, exchanges and official visits listed by the town:

- special train trip from Poznań to Berlin on 8 May 2000 for 250 passengers, and celebration of the "Wielkopolska Days". This event, organised by the Chamber of Commerce of the Poznań Region in cooperation with the Polish Embassy in Germany, was aimed at promoting Poznań and its Region in Germany;
- work experience provided in Germany for students from Polish agricultural colleges thanks to cooperation between German and Polish Chambers of Agriculture;
- over 70 children of Polish origin from Kazakhstan were accommodated in Poznań for one-and-a-half months;
- intense cooperation between the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the Viadrina University in Frankfurt / Oder, with the latter teaching classes in which at least one-third of the students are Polish;
- under the cooperation between the Poznań University of Economic Sciences and its counterparts in Rennes and Berlin and the Socrates-Erasmus programmes, scholarships have been awarded to 42 Poznań students;
- the study visit organised by the Poznań Region Chamber of Commerce enable 30 company directors to visit Hanover, Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Wiesbaden;
- the very frequent school exchanges by Poznań primary and secondary schools;

POZNAN' (continued)

- the cultural days on the cultures of various countries: exhibitions, concerts, culinary events, films, etc are organised during the Danish, Jewish, French, Italian, Japanese and Irish Cultural Days in order to acquaint Poznań inhabitants with the specific features of each country;
- the many seminars, and working group meetings organised by the Poznań Centre for European Studies and Education, preparing for Polish accession to the European Union;

The focus in 2001 was more specifically on cooperation with the County of Nottinghamshire and the town of Jyväskylä in Finland. The highlight of the year was the multilateral twinning meeting entitled "Europe without barriers", which was attended by young people, some of them disabled, from Jyväskylä, Nottinghamshire and Hanover.

Poznań is also proud of its numerous school and student exchanges.

After a three-year gap, Poznań is back in contention, this time applying to be considered for the Europe Prize. It has sent the secretariat a very detailed report on all its European exchanges and activities in the three years since it won the Plaque of Honour in 2002.

Undoubtedly the highpoints during this period were the 13th General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, which took place in Poznań in May 2003 and brought together local authority representatives from 23 member countries, and Poland's accession to the EU.

a) With Hanover (D), there were numerous technical and fact-finding visits as well as celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the link between the two cities. Several events were held to mark the occasion, among them International Youth Games in Hanover with a 50-strong team from Poznań competing, a relay race between the two cities, a joint concert by the Poznań Philharmonic Orchestra and choirs from Hanover, and several photographic exhibitions.

b) With Nottinghamshire (GB) several delegation visits took place in connection with cooperative programmes aimed at preventing domestic violence and revitalising urban centres. Teams of young people took part in sports tournaments, Nottinghamshire delegations attended conferences in Poznań (on the themes of new technology in education, sexual violence against children, and people with disabilities in the labour market), and there were numerous contacts between police officers, teacher training experts and educational psychologists, exchanging experience in the area of preventing drug abuse.

c) With Assen (NL) several fact-finding visits were arranged on the themes of social problems, urban management and employment. Other activities included exhibitions of photographs and paintings, soccer tournaments, contacts between museums and galleries and cooperation between the two municipalities on various EU-funded projects under the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

d) With Jyväskylä (FIN) exhibitions of the work of Finnish artist Alvaro Alto were staged, the Jyväskylä Symphonic Orchestra performed in Poznań, competitors from Poznań took part in the third "Europe sans frontières" games in Jyväskylä and a Jyväskylä delegation made a fact-finding visit to Poznań to learn more about how its municipal administration works.

POZNAN (continued)

e) With Rennes (FR) official visits and fact-finding trips included a visit by 19 municipal councillors from Poznań to Rennes, Assen and Hanover to learn more about municipal housing management. Inter-school exchanges and trainee placements were also organised and a "French-Polish Week" was staged involving representatives of the Wielkopolska Region and the Département of Ille et Vilaine.

f) With Brno (CZ) groups from Poznań took part in various study visits, officers from the respective municipal police forces were involved in an exchange of experience and a number of art exhibitions were staged.

g) With Kharkiv (UA), official visits were organised to mark anniversaries and other important events and there was reciprocal participation in conferences, trade fairs and sports competitions.

Schools in Poznań cooperate closely with many schools in other European countries, either under twinning agreements or in the context of EU-supported programmes.

In the academic field the University of Poznań is particularly involved in cooperation with a number of its European counterparts. Under a series of bilateral agreements it has supported the placement of some 2000 students abroad and has hosted more than 1000 students and visiting lecturers.

7. Application of the town of KALININGRAD (Russia)

KALININGRAD	Reports in:	Twinned with:
	1999	
	2002	KIEL (D)
	2005	BREMERHAVEN (D)
		ROSTOCK (D)
		Berlin-Lichtenberg-Hohenschonhausen
		KALMAR (S)
		MALMÖ (S)
		AALBORG (DK)****
		County of Fyn (Odense) (DK)
<Flag of Honour in 1999>		5 Lithuanian towns (Vilnius, Kaunas, Siauliai,
<Plaque of Honour in 2002>		Panevezys, Klaipeda)
		CORK (Irl)
		SOUTHAMPTON (UK)
		Province of Groningen (NL)
		7 Polish towns (Gdansk, Gdynia, Olsztyn, Elblag,
		Bialystok, Torun, Lodz)

Kaliningrad is also twinned with DALYAN (China) and NORFOLK (USA).
In total, it has developed 25 twinings.

Kaliningrad, situated in the westernmost part of Russia, is a “special economic zone” and as such enjoys a measure of freedom in the management of its local affairs, including the right to enter into international twinning agreements.

In 2005 Kaliningrad celebrates its 750th jubilee and it plans to invite representatives of all its twinned and partner municipalities for the occasion.

Kaliningrad is a member of the following international organisations: Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), Eurocities, the “Baltica” Euroregion, etc.

In 1995, with financial support from the European Union, the towns of Aalborg (DK) and Bremerhaven (D) established, together with the local authorities of Kaliningrad, an international Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology to carry out specific environmental projects in the Kaliningrad region.

Kaliningrad has drawn up programmes for closer cross-border cooperation with the Polish towns of Olstyn, Elblong and Belostok and plans delegation visits, business links and joint promotional efforts.

On the basis of cooperation agreements, Kaliningrad has developed twinning links with the following towns since 1992:

Kiel in Germany, which supports a number of social projects: hospitals, orphanages, the fight against AIDS. Exchanges have also taken place between schools and universities. In the cultural sphere, exchanges between music schools and art exhibitions are held on a regular basis. Delegations regularly take part in events organised by the twin town (festivals, Days of the city ...) Both towns celebrated in 2002 the 10th anniversary of their cooperation as part of an event entitled “Kiel Week”.

Bremerhaven in Germany, which helps train specialists and organises round table discussions with Kaliningrad. The two cities’ hospitals work together closely and seminars and exchanges of medical staff take place on a regular basis. Young people of both towns take part in sporting encounters at international level.

(Europe Prize – continued)

KALININGRAD (continued)

With **Rostock**, an agreement was signed between the two municipalities for cooperation over the period 1999-2001 in the field of harbour activities, construction, environmental protection, culture, education and sport. Contacts between businesspeople have led to the signing of numerous contracts.

An agreement was signed with the **Berlin-Lichtenberg-Hohenschonhausen** district in 2004. Two economic forums held in Berlin and Kaliningrad followed as well as the Days of the Culture “Berlin-Kaliningrad” organised in Berlin. Youth organisations of both towns regularly organise forums and exchanges of delegations of young people.

Kaliningrad initiated cooperation with several Danish towns after an international centre for the environment was set up. These notably include:

AALBORG which has signed an agreement with Kaliningrad for pooling experience at municipal level in the fields of social welfare, environment, education, sport, etc. Training courses have been run for business executives in the hotel and catering industry and relations established with similar firms in Denmark. Student and teacher exchanges have also been organised.

ODENSE (Fun county) which was responsible for an environmental protection project designed to improve the coastal waters of the Baltic and funded by the EU and the Danish government.

COPENHAGEN which, through its Institute of Technology, is conducting an energy-saving project with Kaliningrad. Other projects, most of them in the social field, are being developed (eg to combat drugs and alcohol abuse).

BORNHOLM where a training centre for journalists operates on a permanent basis and whose students include journalists from Kaliningrad.

Kaliningrad, however, also cooperates with SWEDEN, particularly the towns of southern Sweden, Malmö, Karlskrona, Kalmar and Vekje, where the focus has been mainly on social projects (anti-drugs campaign, supply of medical equipment, etc). With Malmo, a number of training seminars on local government have been held.

In the case of Ireland, a cooperation agreement with **CORK** has given rise to numerous visits by official delegations. An international project including Denmark and Greece has been set up to help retired army officers become reintegrated into civilian life.

In the case of the United Kingdom, a cooperation agreement was signed with **SOUTHAMPTON**, with the emphasis on transport problems. The cities of Aalborg and Berlin are involved as well.

Kaliningrad has also signed a cooperation agreement with the **province of GRONINGEN** and developed contacts mainly in the economic and commercial spheres. Contacts between politicians for local democracy building and between the towns’ museums were stepped up in 1999 and 2000.

The greatest number of contacts, however, are with **Poland**, Kaliningrad having signed nine cooperation agreements with the following towns: Gdansk, Gdynia, Olstyn, Torun, Raciborz, Lodz, Elblong, Belostok and Zabzhe. Most of the contacts are in the economic sphere but also cultural, sports activities and in the field of education.

KALININGRAD (continued)

With **Lithuania**, and more specifically with Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda, Kaliningrad has developed economic ties, as well as contacts in the fields of culture and sport. The “Festival of Lithuanian culture in Kaliningrad”, for example, is a very popular event in Kaliningrad.

Numerous other contacts have been established as well, however: **the University of Kaliningrad**, for instance, has signed 23 cooperation agreements with universities in Poland, Germany, France, Denmark, Sweden and Lithuania. Every year, around 300 students and teachers take part in exchange programmes. **The Chamber of Commerce** works with its counterparts in Lithuania, Prague, Groningen, Gdynia, etc.

Kaliningrad supports inter-family and inter-school exchanges, which have developed particularly well with Kalmar (S) and Duisberg and Kiel (D), as well senior citizens' exchanges, notably with Aalborg and Kiel.

The city hosts international gatherings, sports events, lectures and seminars on a regular basis and has a permanent exhibition centre. It is also actively involved in the organisation of many cultural events including international festivals of sailing, film and organ music and numerous folk-music festivals.

Twinning activities in 2003 involved 17 exchanges by official delegations, participation by folk groups from Kaliningrad in 15 international festivals, involvement in six sports events and the hosting of seven more, as well as nine student and school exchanges. Highlights included:

- participation by youth soccer teams in international competitions in Torun and Zabrze (PL) in February;
- a study visit by 25 teachers from Kaliningrad to Elblong and Torun;
- participation by young people from Kaliningrad in international sports competitions for people with disabilities, held in Aalborg;
- a "Cooperation with Lithuanian Towns" event in Kaliningrad;
- hosting a seminar for exchanges of experience with German doctors;
- bilateral business meetings with Dutch companies, organised by the municipality of Kaliningrad.

Kaliningrad attaches considerable importance to tackling environmental problems and, in conjunction with its partner towns, has initiated several projects to improve environmental quality and living conditions.

II. PROPOSALS FOR THE PLAQUE OF HONOUR

This year the Secretariat has received **63 applications** for the plaque of honour, which is a noticeable increase on last year when it received 52. Some of these applications were accompanied by a large file of press cuttings, while others were more brief. A summary of each of the applications is set out in document **AS/ENA/Prix (2005) 2**.

The Secretariat proposes that the reports of the following 10 towns be taken into consideration: Dreux in France, Beratzhausen, Glinde, Heidenheim and Kronach in Germany, Kecskemet and Kiskunhalas in Hungary, Calcinaia in Italy and Krotoszyn and Torun in Poland.

1. France

DREUX (Eure-et-Loir), which is twinned with several towns which have already been awarded a Council of Europe distinction, ie the Flag of Honour (Todi and Melsungen) and the Plaque of Honour (Melsungen). Despite the fact that its relations with its four twin towns have become less active, Dreux is doing its utmost to maintain contacts with these towns. The award of the Plaque of Honour could be considered an encouragement to keep up these efforts.

2. GERMANY

BERATZHAUSEN (Bavaria), which, despite the fact that it is only a small town (only 5,000 inhabitants), has continued its twinning activities with the French town of Ceyrat since it was awarded the Flag of Honour ten years ago. It has also stepped up its cultural activities with Romania.

GLINDE (Schleswig-Holstein), which been awarded the Flag of Honour for the past 25 years and has a large number of exchanges with its two French and Hungarian twin towns.

HEIDENHEIM (Baden-Wurtemberg), which has submitted two very detailed reports on its numerous exchanges with its six twin towns, in particular St Pölten, an Austrian town which was awarded the Europe Prize in 2001.

KRONACH (Bavaria), which was awarded the Flag of Honour relatively recently, in 2001, but which in 2005 will celebrate two twinning anniversaries, one with the Hungarian town of Kiskunhalas, which has also applied for the Plaque of Honour.

3. HUNGARY

KECSKEMET (Bacs-Kiskun District), which, since the award of the Flag of Honour in 2002, has submitted excellent reports on its twinning activities with its eleven twin towns.

KISKUNHALAS (Bacs-Kiskun District), which has celebrated two twinning anniversaries and especially Hungary's membership of the European Union. The Plaque could be jointly awarded to Kiskunhalas and its German twin town, Kronach, which is also a candidate.

4. ITALY

CALCINAIA (Province of Pisa), which, despite being a small town (8,500 inhabitants), has a large number of exchanges with its two twin towns. It was awarded the Flag of Honour in 2000.

(Plaques of honour – continued)

5. POLAND

KROTOSZYN (woj. Wielkopolskie), which has held the Flag of Honour since 2001 and which has submitted a list of highly diversified exchanges with its four twin towns in 2004. It will celebrate three twinning anniversaries in 2005.

TORUŃ (woj. Kujawsko-Pomorskie) which has developed a number of very original activities with its six twin towns.

In summary, 10 plaques of honour could be awarded :

France	DREUX (Eure-et-Loir)
Germany	BERATZHAUSEN (Bavaria)
	GLINDE (Schlewig-Holstein)
	HEIDENHEIM (Baden-Wurtemberg)
	KRONACH (Bavaria)
Hungary	KECSKEMET (Bacs-Kiskun District)
	KISKUNHALAS (Bacs-Kiskun District)
Italy	CALCINAIA (Prov. of Pise)
Poland	KROTOSZYN (woj. Wielkopolskie)
	TORUŃ (woj. Kujawsko-Pomorskie)

III. FLAGS OF HONOUR AND EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS FOR 2005

This year the Secretariat has, as in 2004, received **84 applications** for the Council of Europe Diploma or Flag of Honour. Some of them are well documented (some towns eg Leitz have sent in several reports), while others are brief. And as always, applications from Germany are the most numerous. A summary of each application is to be found in document **AS/ENA/Prix (2005) 1**.

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The Secretariat proposes that 24 Flags of Honour and 35 European Diplomas should be awarded. The geographical distribution would be as follows:

1. AUSTRIA

a) *Flag of Honour*

No applications have been renewed this year.

b) *European Diploma*

3 new applications from Upper-Austria, Carinthia and Styria. The Secretariat proposes that each of them should be awarded the European Diploma.

To sum up:

Flag of honour :

-

European Diploma :

BAD SCHALLERBACH(Upper-Austria)
FELDKIRCHEN i.K. (Carinthia)
WEIZ (Styria)

2. **FRANCE**

19 applications, 12 of which are new or have been renewed in 2005.

a) ***Flag of Honour (3)***

The **Flag of Honour** could be awarded to:

BEZIERS (Hérault) for its four very active twinnings, in particular with Heilbronn and Stockport.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER (Pas-de-Calais), which is applying for the first time. However, given the number of exchanges and its decision to develop twinnings mainly with Romania, Poland and Hungary, the Secretariat proposes that it should be awarded the Flag of Honour.

MERU (Oise) which last year celebrated the 40th anniversary of its twinning with Borken, which was awarded the Flag of Honour in 2001.

b) ***European Diploma (4)***

The **European Diploma** could be awarded to:

Aixe-sur-Vienne (Haute-Vienne) (*together with Großhabersdorf in Bavaria*)
Montfort-sur-Meu (Ille-and-Vilaine)
Saint-Etienne-les-Orgues (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence)
Villebon-sur-Yvette (Essonne)

To sum up :

Flags of honour :

Béziers (Hérault)
Boulogne-sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais)
Méru (Oise)

European Diplomas :

Aixe-sur-Vienne (Haute-Vienne)
Montfort-sur-Meu (Ille-et-Vilaine)
Saint-Etienne-les-Orgues (Alpes-de-H.P.)
Villebon-sur-Yvette (Essonne)

* * *

3. GERMANY

76 applications, 38 of which are new or have been renewed in 2005.

a) *Flag of Honour*

The Flag of Honour could be awarded to the following (11) municipalities or local and regional authorities:

BAD ABBACH (Bavaria) which has been applying since 1999 and whose level of exchanges has risen considerably over the years.

BECHHOFEN (Bavaria), which in 2005 will celebrate its 30th twinning anniversary with its small French twin town.

BECKUM (North-Rhine Westphalia) whose list of activities in 2004 clearly underlines the vitality of its three twinings.

BOGEN (Bavaria), which has been applying since 2001 and which, in addition to its two twinings, has very close friendships with six other towns.

DRANSFELD (Lower-Saxony) which since 1991 has a very well-established and innovative twinning with the Hungarian town of Racalmas.

ENZKREIS (Baden-Wurtemberg); this district in the heart of Baden-Wurtemberg has been twinned with Emilia-Romana and with three Polish municipalities for over 10 years.

KRANENBURG (North-Rhine Westphalia), which has, in particular, developed a very large number of cross-border exchanges with neighbouring municipalities in the Netherlands.

LANGENARGEN (Baden-Wurtemberg), which has made unflagging efforts in its exchanges with its twin towns in France and Switzerland.

MÜHLACKER (Baden-Wurtemberg), which is twinned with the town of Bassano del Grappa, which has been awarded the Plaque of Honour, and which will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2005.

PFARRKIRCHEN (Bavaria), which stepped up its relations with its three twin towns in 2004.

WEIL AM RHEIN (Baden-Wurtemberg), which has been applying since 2000 and is a fine example of transfrontier co-operation.

b) *The Europea Diploma :*

The European Diploma could be awarded to the following municipalities (12) :

Bobenheim-Roxheim (Rhineland-Palatinate)

Durach (Bavaria)

Durbach (Baden-Wurtemberg)

Fürth (Bavaria)

Großhabersdorf (Bavaria) (*together with Aixe-sur-Vienne (F)*)

Herborn (Hessen)

Hude (Oldb) (Lower-Saxony)

Ostalbkreis (Baden-Wurtemberg)

Pfaffenhausen (Bavaria)

Pirna (Saxony)

Waldbronn (Baden-Wurtemberg)

Waldsolms (Hessen)

To sum up :

Flags of honour (11) :

BAD ABBACH (Bavaria)
BECHHOFEN (Bavière)
BECKUM (North-Rhine Westfalia)
BOGEN (Bavaria)
DRANSFELD (Lower-Saxony)
ENZKREIS (Baden-Wurtemberg)
KRANENBURG (North-Rhine Westfalia)
LANGENARGEN (Baden-Wurtemberg)
MÜHLACKER (Baden-Wurtemberg)
PFARRKIRCHEN (Bavaria)
WEIL AM RHEIN (Baden-Wurtemberg)

European Diploma (12) :

BOBENHEIM-ROXHEIM (Rhineland-Palatinate)
DURACH (Bavaria)
DURBACH (Baden-Wurtemberg)
FÜRTH (Bavaria)
GROBHABERSDORF (Bavaria)
HERBORN (Hessen)
HUDE (Oldb) (Lower-Saxony)
OSTALBKREIS (Baden-Wurtemberg)
PAFFENHAUSEN (Bavaria)
PIRNA (Saxony)
WALDBRONN (Baden-Wurtemberg)
WALDSOLMS (Hessen)

4. HUNGARY

4 applications, 2 of which are new.

a) *Flag of Honour*

The only application which has been renewed in 2005 is from the town of **SZENTES** (Csongrad County), which was awarded the European Diploma last year. The Secretariat proposes that it should be awarded the Flag of Honour.

SZENTES (Csongrad County)

b) *European Diploma*

The **European Diploma** could be awarded to:

CSORNA (Győr-Moson-Sopron County)
KÖSZEG

To sum up :

Flag of honour

SZENTES (Csongrad County)

European Diploma

CSORNA (Győr-Moson-Sopron County)
KÖSZEG (Vas County)

5. **ITALY**

6 applications, 4 of which are new or have been renewed in 2005.

a) ***Flag of Honour***

The two municipalities applying for the **Flag of Honour**, Farnese and Fortezza, have not shown that their exchanges are sufficiently well-established to justify the award of the Flag of Honour.

b) ***European Diploma***

The European Diploma could be awarded to:

BAGNACAVALLO (Province of Ravenna)
SALERNO (Province of Salerno)

To sum up :

Flag of honour

-

European Diploma

BAGNACAVALLO
SALERNO

* * *

6. **LATVIA**

a) ***European Diploma***

Only one application from the town of **SALDUS**, which was encouraged to apply after the Flag of Honour was awarded to its twin town, Liederbach am Taunus.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

-

European Diploma

SALDUS

7. **NETHERLANDS**

Only one application has been renewed in 2005, from the town of **SCHOUWEN-DUIVELAND**, which in 2005 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its twinning with St Hilaire (F) and Hatfield (GB) and the Secretariat proposes that it should be awarded the Flag of Honour.

a) *Flag of Honour*

SCHOUWEN-DUIVELAND (Zeeland).

To sum up :	
Flag of honour	European Diploma
SCHOUWEN-DUIVELAND (Zeeland)	-

8. **POLAND**

The number of applications from Poland has been rising from year to year. The Secretariat has received 20 applications, 13 of which are new or have been renewed in 2005.

a) *Flag of Honour*

The Flag of Honour could be awarded to:

PŁOCK (woj. Mazowieckie), which has no less than eight European twinnings, the most active of which is with the town of Darmstadt in Germany, which has been awarded the Europe Prize.

ŚWINOUJŚCIE (woj. Zachodniopomorskie), whose activities have greatly increased since it received the European Diploma in 2002.

WĄGROWIEC (woj. Wielkopolskie), which does its utmost to involve all social classes in the six twinnings it has developed.

b) *European Diploma*

The European Diploma could be awarded to

BĘDZIN (woj. Śląskie)

BIAŁOGARD (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)

GRODZISK WIELKOPOLSKI (woj. Wielkopolskie)

KOŁOBRZEG (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)

RADOM (woj. Mazowieckie)

ŻYWIEC (woj. Śląskie)

To sum up :

Flag of honour

PŁOCK (woj. Mazowieckie)
ŚWINOUJŚCIE (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)
WĄGROWIEC (woj. Wielkopolskie)

European Diploma

BĘDZIN (woj. Śląskie)
BIAŁOGARD (woj. Zachodnio.)
GRODZISK WIELKOPOLSKI
KOŁOBRZEG (woj. Zachodnio.)
RADOM (woj. Mazowieckie)
ŻYWIEC (woj. Śląskie)

9. ROMANIA

Only one new application, from the town of **ORADEA** in Bihor County.
The Secretariat proposes that it should be awarded the European Diploma.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

-

European Diploma

ORADEA (Bihor County)

10. RUSSIA

The secretariat has received **only one application**. This is a new application but given the size of the town and the large number of twinning activities, it is proposed to immediately award it the Flag of Honour.

a) *Flag of Honour*

The Flag of Honour could be awarded to **KOSTROMA**.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

KOSTROMA

European Diploma

-

(Flags of honour and European Diplomas – continued)

11. **SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

For the first time, the Secretariat received an application from this country, more particularly from Kosovo, under American administration. It is suggested to encourage the town of Gjilan on its way to democracy.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

-

European Diploma

GJILAN (Kosovo)

12. **SPAIN**

Only one application, which has been renewed in 2005, from the town of **LAS ROZAS**.

a) Flag of Honour

The Secretariat proposes that the Flag of Honour should be awarded to this town to encourage Spanish towns to apply.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

LAS ROZAS (Madrid)

European Diploma

-

13. **SWITZERLAND**

Only one candidature, which has been renewed in 2005, from the town of **MORGES** (Vaud). The Secretariat proposes that the Flag of Honour be awarded to this town, which received the European Diploma in 1996.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

MORGES (Vaud)

European Diploma

-

14. **TURKEY**

1 application, which has been renewed in 2005, from the town of **BAHCESEHIR**, near **Istanbul**, which appears to deserve the Flag of Honour this year.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

European Diploma

BAHÇEŞEHİR

-

15. **UKRAINE**

Only one application but a very good one from the town of **IVANO-FRANKIVSK**. The Secretariat proposes that the European Diploma be awarded to this town.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

European Diploma

-

IVANO-FRANKIVSK

16. **UNITED KINGDOM**

2 new applications and one renewed application in 2005, from the town of **SEAHAM (Durham)** to which the Flag of Honour could be awarded.

To sum up :

Flag of honour

European Diploma

SEAHAM (Durham)

**BRACKNELL (Berkshire)
VERWOOD (Dorset)**

LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR THE EUROPE PRIZE AND THE PLAQUES OF HONOUR

1. EUROPE PRIZE

One town has to be selected from among the following :

- a) **Germany** with : the **MITTELFRANKEN** district (Bavaria) and the towns of **AALEN** (Baden-Wurtemberg), **NUREMBERG** (Bavaria), **VERDEN** (Lower-Saxony) and **WETZLAR** (Hessen).
- b) **Poland** with the town of **POZNAŃ** (woj. Wielkopolskie).
- c) **Russia** with the town of **KALININGRAD**.

2. PLAQUES OF HONOUR (10)

Proposals :

France	DREUX (Eure-et-Loir)
Germany	BERATZHAUSEN (Bavaria) GLINDE (Schlewig-Holstein) HEIDENHEIM (Baden-Wurtemberg) KRONACH (Bavaria)
Hungary	KECSKEMET (Bacs-Kiskun District) KISKUNHALAS (Bacs-Kiskun District)
Italy	CALCINAIA (Prov. of Pisa)
Poland	KROTOSZYN (woj. Wielkopolskie) TORUŃ (woj. Kujawsko-Pomorskie)

LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR THE FLAGS OF HONOUR AND THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS

1. FLAGS OF HONOUR (24)

France	Béziers (Hérault) Boulogne-sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais) Méru (Oise)
Germany	Bad Abbach (Bavaria) Bechhofen (Bavaria) Beckum (North-Rhine Westphalia) Bogen (Bavaria) Dransfeld (Lower-Saxony) Enzkreis (Baden-Wurtemberg) Kranenburg (North-Rhine Westphalia) Langenargen (Baden-Wurtemberg) Mühlacker (Baden-Wurtemberg) Pfarrkirchen (Bavaria) Weil am Rhein (Baden-Wurtemberg)
Hungary	Szentes (Csongrad County)
Netherlands	Schouwen-Duiveland (Zeeland)
Poland	Płock (woj. Mazowieckie) Świnoujście (woj. Zachodniopomorskie) Wągrowiec (woj. Wielkopolskie)
Russia	Kostroma
Spain	Las Rozas (Madrid)
Switzerland	Morges (Vaud)
Turkey	Bahçeşehir
United Kingdom	Seaham (Durham)

3. EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS (35)

Austria	Bad Schallerbach (Upper-Austria) Feldkirchen i.K. (Carinthia) Weiz (Styria)
France	Aixe-sur-Vienne (Haute-Vienne) Montfort-sur-Meu (Ille-et-Vilaine) Saint-Etienne-les-Orgues (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) Villebon-sur-Yvette (Essonne)
Germany	Bobenheim-Roxheim (Rhineland-Palatinate) Durach (Bavaria) Durbach (Baden-Wurtemberg) Fürth (Bavaria) Großhabersdorf (Bavaria) Herborn (Hessen) Hude (Oldb) (Lower-Saxony) Ostalbkreis (Baden-Wurtemberg) Pfaffenhausen (Bavaria) Pirna (Saxony) Waldbronn (Baden-Wurtemberg) Waldsolms (Hessen)
Hungary	Csorna (Győr-Moson-Sopron County) Köszeg (Vas County)
Italy	Bagnacavallo (Prov. di Ravenna) Salerno (Prov. di Salerno)
Latria	Saldus
Poland	Będzin (woj. Śląskie) Białogard (woj. Zachodniopomorskie) Grodzisk Wielkopolski (woj. Wielkopolskie) Kołobrzeg (woj. Zachodniopomorskie) Radom (woj. Mazowieckie) Żywiec (woj. Śląskie)
Romania	Oradea (Bihor County)
Serbia and Montenegro	Gjilan (Kosovo)
Ukraine	Ivano-Frankivsk
United Kingdom	Bracknell (Berkshire) Verwood (Dorset)